From: Terence Crocker
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/17/02 7:08am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello,

I believe this issue of Microsoft's recent settlement with the DOJ will be the most important issue that faces American life in the years to come.

It would be difficult to communicate the differences that could occur if Microsoft were compelled to act in the best interests of American society, instead of in the narrow interests that their monopolistic interpretation of free enterprise has produced.

Forcing Microsoft to release documentation that describes the API codes, with the exception of security issues that would be monitored by the U.S. Government, seems a necessary first-step.

The second step is much more difficult and that is allowing Microsoft to implement this release in its own fashion and on its own time schedule. Why? I believe that Microsoft must be allowed to operate in bad faith so that further, more Draconian measures can be applied in the case of flagrant non-compliance.

The final step is the monitoring of the Microsoft Monopoly over the Windows Operating System and the reduction of anti-competitive positions on the part of Microsoft. I believe that this will be accomplished by non-compliance by Microsoft of the settlement once enacted, and a much stricter enforcement by the U.S. Government, following the expected transgressions.

Further, while I applaud the efforts of the State Attorney Generals of the dissenting nine states, I believe their efforts do not reflect the best interests of America, as a whole, but reflect the various constituencies' interests within those states.

Microsoft must be allowed to decide how to treat their own self-inflicted wounds. Microsoft, alone, needs to determine their role in future events.

Further, in light of the events of September 11th, I believe it behooves all citizens of the Western World to emphasize that security is an utmost serious matter and that our future safety should not be left to the whims of an unstructured Operating System marketplace.

My greatest fear is that Microsoft will be allowed to constrict the innovation in Operating Systems and drive OS development underground, leading to unforseen consequences when further unanticipated OS refinements begin to appear.

I take Bill Gates, et al, at their words that they can be relied upon to act as responsible citizens and loyal Americans. In fact, I believe we have no choice but to make that assumption.

I note with some trepidation that the manufacturing of significantly sophisticated electronic hardware falls outside the perview of the U.S. Government. And those devices, given an alternative approach to Operating Systems, could prove disasterous to the American way of life.

Sincerly Yours,

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Age 48